

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 TRSE-00

EB-07 SAM-01 DHA-02 /109 W
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R 090817Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9099

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHNZT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMCONSUL TANGIER

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3647

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO OAU

SUBJECT: A TOUGH OAU SESSION FOR GOM

1. SUMMARY: MOROCCANS SOBERED BY SETBACKS AT PORT LOUIS
BUT PREDICTABLY PALYING COMPROMISE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR
EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT AS AN ALGERIAN DEFEAT. HASSLE SEEMS
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LIKELY OVER SAHARAN REPRESENTATION AT ANY SUMMIT CONFERENCE, AS WELL

AS OVER AGENDA, POSSIBLY TORPEDOING CONFERENCE BEFORE IT BEGINS. MEANWHILE, SEMI-OFFICIAL MEDIA ESCALATED RHETORIC ANOTHER NOTCH BY RAISING FOR FIRST TIME GOM'S TERRITORIAL CLAIMS INSIDE ALGERIA. END SUMMARY

2. MOROCCANS ARE SOMEWHAT STUNNED BY DIPLOMATIC REVERSALS AT PORT LOUIS. THEY HAD GONE INTO MINISTERIAL SESSION EXPECTING TO BE ABLE TO HOLD LINE AGAINST ANTICIPATED ALGERIAN EFFORTS TO INJECT SAHARA ISSUE INTO DEBATES. ENCOURAGED BY INITIAL POLISARIO FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED, THEY WERE LATER FRUSTRATED IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN CONFERENCE'S CENSURE AGAINST ALGERIA FOR COMPLICITY IN NOUAKCHOTT ATTACKS. GOM FALLBACK POSITION WAS EXPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS "NORTH AFRICAN TENSIONS." WHEN GOM/GIRM EFFORTS TO OBTAIN OAU SUPPORT ALONG THESE LINES ALSO WERE THWARTED AND MINISTERS SUDDENLY PASSED BENIN RESOLUTION, GOM ANNOUNCED ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM COM SESSION AND APPARENTLY DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN SUMMIT, ALTHOUGH OULD DADDAH DID. BELIEF WIDELY HELD HERE BEFORE CONFERENCE THAT OAU, WHICH PRIDES ITSELF ON CONSENSUS, WOULD DO ANYTHING TO AVOID DEADLOCK. IN A SENSE THIS IDEA WORKED, AT LEAST FOR MOMENT, BUT ONLY ELEVENTH HOUR COMPROMISE PROPOSAL FOR EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT SESSION KEPT GOM FROM HAVING TO CARRY OUT ITS WITHDRAWAL THREAT. IN FACT, MOROCCO WAS FORCED TO GO ALONG WITH SUMMIT PROPOSAL TO AVOID WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY CHANCY SUMMIT VOTE ON BENIN RESOLUTION.

3. IN COURSE OF DEBATE JUST PRIOR TO WALKOUT GOM ACCUSED OAU OF VIOLATING ITS CHARTER BY DELVING INTO MOROCCO'S "INTERNAL AFFAIRS" AND THREATENING "TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY" OF TWO MEMBER STATES. GOM ALSO ACCUSED OAU OF VIOLATING ITS OWN PROCEDURES, HAVING DECIDED AT FEBRUARY'S ADDIS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO LET MEMBER STATES ADOPT THEIR OWN POSITIONS ON RECOGNITION OF SDAR.

4. THEMES INCREASINGLY HEARD IN BOTH SEMI-OFFICIAL AND OPPOSITION PRESS WERE THAT OAU HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER BY SMALL GROUP OF STATES WHICH LED BY "USURPERS" HAVING "NEITHER HISTORIC NOR CONSTITUTIONAL LEGITIMACY" AND WHICH MANIPULATED BY ALGERIA (MAROC SOIR, JULY 6).
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ISTIQLALI AL ALAM WROTE JULY 6 THAT MEMBER STATES DID NOT CONSIDER OAU VERY IMPORTANT ANYWAY, AS WITNESSED BY SMALL NUMBER OF CHIEFS OF STATE PRESENT. AL ALAM WENT ON TO STATE, HOWEVER, THAT DESPITE OAU'S INADEQUACIES INCIDENT DID NOT JUSTIFY PERMANENT MOROCCAN WITHDRAWAL. USFP'S AL MOUHARRIR ACKNOWLEDGED JULY 7 THAT ALGERIA HAD SCORED OAU VICTORY BY REOPENING SAHARA ISSUE, AND BLAMED GOM'S POOR INTERNATIONAL SHOWING ON ITS FAILURE TO PROJECT

IMAGE OF INTERNAL DEMOCRACY. EDITORIAL URGED TWO-PRONGED PLAN OF ACTION, LATTER FOR FIRST TIME. TRULY DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED ON INTERNAL FRONT, WHILE ON MILITARY FRONT, MOROCCO SHOULD "GATHER ITS FORCES AND ENTER DECISIVE OPERATION, STARTING WITH TINDOUF."

5. OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY MAP STORY JULY 6 ON FINAL VOTE NOTED POINTEDLY THAT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION, WHICH IT SAID WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, DID NOT SPECIFY THAT POLISARIO WOULD BE INVITED. ON JULY 7 MAP STRESSED THE POSITIVE, EXPRESSING SATISFACTION THAT "WISDOM" HAD PREVAILED AND RESULTED IN "UNTRACKING" ALGERIAN DIPLOMACY SINCE BENIN RESOLUTION DID NOT PASS. PASSAGE OF THAT RESOLUTION, STORY CONTINUED, WOULD HAVE LED TO "BREAKUP" OF OAU. IN ANY CASE, EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT WOULD NOT MAKE MOROCCO "ABANDON A SINGLE INCH OF OUR REUNIFIED TERRITORY." MAROC SOIR EDITORIAL JULY 7 MAY HAVE TIPPED GOM NEGOTIATING STRATEGY BY STATING MOROCCO WOULD "FEEL AT EASE" IN UPCOMING EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT IN RAISING QUESTION OF "OTHER SAHARAN TERRITORIES" DETACHED FROM MOROCCO, ALL OF WHICH HAPPENED TO BE IN ALGERIA.

6. ALGERIAN INTERESTS OFFICER TOLD EMBOFF ON JULY 6 THAT OAU SESSION HAD PROVED THAT SAHARA ISSUE NOT CLOSED. HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT WOULD EVER TAKE PLACE.

7. MFA ACTING DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA, STRESSING HE STILL AWAITING RETURN OF GOM DELEGATION TO HAVE DETAILS, NOTED THERE WOULD BE NO QUESTION IN GOM'S VIEW OF ANY POLISARIO PARTICIPATION AT SUMMIT.

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8. COMMENT: GOM STRATEGY HENCEFORTH MAY WELL BE TO DRAG FEET ON EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT. MOST LIKELY HANGUP IN GETTING MEETING UNDERWAY WILL BE SAHARA REPRESENTATION ALTHOUGH PRELIMINARY EDITORIAL SIGNALS INDICATE GOM MAY ATTEMPT TO FUZZ ISSUE BY RAISING WHOLE QUESTION OF GOM TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AGAINST ALGERIA. WHETHER OR NOT THIS FOLLOWS, APPEARANCE OF THESE CLAIMS IN SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS MARKS A NEW VERBAL ESCALATION IN THIS REGIONAL DISPUTE.

9. GOM IS AT LEAST FOR MOMENT ATTEMPTING PORTRAY RESULTS AS MORE OF AN ALGERIAN THAN MOROCCAN SETBACK. THERE IS A TEMPORARY SENSE OF CONFUSION HERE, AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW LATEST EVENTS WILL AFFECT GOM MOVES. KING MAY SHED SOME LIGHT ON THIS IN HIS EXPECTED BIRTHDAY SPEECH ON JULY 8.

ANDERSON

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